
REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the final Office Action dated July 27, 2004 (Paper No./Mail Date 20040726). By this communication, claims 1, 6, 20, and 22 have been canceled without prejudice and claims 3, 5, and 7 have been amended.

Claims 3, 5, and 7 each have been amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claim 1. Support for the subject matter recited in claim 3 can be found variously throughout the specification and claims, for example, in amended claim 1 (See Amendment dated April 28, 2004). No new matter has been added.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) satisfies a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5, 7-10 and 23-32 are pending where claims 3, 5, 7-10, 23, 24 and 30 are independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 8-10 and 23-32 are allowable, and that claims 3-5 and 7 contain allowable subject matter. As discussed above, Applicant has placed claims 3, 5, and 7 in independent form. Therefore, claims 3-5 and 7 are now allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by *Nomura et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,982,565. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 1 and 6 have been canceled. Thus, the rejection with respect to these claims is moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 and 6 under §102 be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 20 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Nomura* in view of *Lee et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,665,957. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 20 and 22 have been canceled. Thus, the rejection with respect to these claims is moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 20 and 22 under §103 be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 3-5 and 7 were objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant has amended each of claims 3, 5, and 7 to incorporate the elements previously recited in claim 1. Claims 3, 5, and 7 are now in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 3, 5, and 7 be withdrawn and these claims be allowed.

Claim 4 depends from claim 3. By virtue of this dependency, Applicant submits that claim 4 is allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that claim 4 be allowed.

Conclusion

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 3-5, 7-10 and 23-32 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application. In the event the Examiner has any comments or suggestions for placing the application in even better form, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-2198 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 26, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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